Novel Need Not Return to N.O.--Court

5/31/68

An Ohio district court of appeals has ruled that former nightclub operator Gordon Novel does not have to return to New Orleans for the Grand Jury probe of the Kennedy assassination.

The decision of the 10th District Court at Columbus yesterday came following a hearing.

Novel has been fighting a long battle with Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison who wants him to appear as a material witness in the probe.

The ruling overturned an earlier decision in a Franklin County common pleas court that Novel would have to honor the subpoena.

The appeals court ruling said the immunity from arrest that Garrison offered Novel does not continue once Novel returns to Louisiana and is faced with a new charge.

Novel has consistantly termed the Garrison investigation a "fraud," and said he knows nothing of the Kennedy assassination.